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AND OCEANS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2008

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

I am writing to you regarding the deplorable living conditions that many of our returning soldiers are being subjected to at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In the aftermath of the problems at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the U.S. Army needs to act quickly to end another national embarrassment.

A constituent of mine, Sgt. Jeff Frawley of the 82nd Airborne, recently returned from a 15 month deployment in Afghanistan. During his deployment, Sgt. Frawley endured extremely difficult and dangerous conditions in the mountains near Pakistan. Despite these hardships, Sgt. Frawley selflessly re-enlisted to serve his country for another four years.

Upon his return, Sgt. Frawley's company was forced to live in barracks at Fort Bragg that are infested with mold, have decrepit plumbing, and are structurally unsound. While visiting his son, Jeff's father took pictures of the barracks and eventually posted a video of them on the internet (<http://leerburg.com/barracks.htm>). The video is currently being shown by CNN and other national news organizations.

The condition of these barracks is simply unacceptable. Our returning veterans deserve better. I strongly urge that you take every measure necessary to rectify this unfortunate situation.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

CC – The Honorable Pete Geren,
Secretary of the U.S. Army

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